

## Message Text

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ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ACDA-19 STR-08 EB-11 COME-00 MC-02

AID-20 IGA-02 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04

RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 DRC-01 SEC-03 TRSE-00 /146 W

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O 291815Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5098

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E.O. 11652 - N/A

TAGS: BBAK, ETRN, ES

SUBJ: PATTERSON CORPORATION (CENTRAL AMERICAN AEROSPACE CAA)

REF: A) SAN SALVADOR 1096; B) SAN SALVADOR 1127; C) STATE 057515;  
D) STATE 059818

1. IGNACIO ARTINANE, VICE PRESIDENT OF CAA (IDENTIFIED SS 4478), CALLED ON EMBOFF MARCH 28 TO REPORT HIS VIEWS ON PATTERSON SITUATION BASED ON HIS JUST COMPLETED VISIT TO THE US AND HIS CONTACTS THERE WITH LARRY CARR. HE SAID CARR IS EXPECTED TO RETURN TO SAN SALVADOR EVENING MARCH 29 FOR A FEW DAYS IN ORDER TO ASSESS THE LOCAL SITUATION. EMBOFF SUGGESTED THAT CARR AVOID THE PUBLIC MEDIA AND THAT HE CONSIDER CAREFULLY CONTACTS WITH THE GOES UNLESS HE HAS IN HAND MATERIAL WHICH SATISFIES ITS POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC CONCERNS. ACTION REQUESTED: IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT WE KNOW SOONEST WHETHER WIRE SERVICE NEWS REPORTS ARE ACCURATE THAT (A) SEIZED INVENTORIES ARE ESSENTIALLY "JUNK" VALUED AT LESS THAN ONE MILLION DOLLARS; B) IF, IN FACT, CUSTOM'S INVESTIGATION HAS DETERMINED THAT SOME OR ALL OF GOODS ARE SUBJECT TO MUNITIONS CONTROL LICENSING AND C) IF POSSIBLE, A DESCRIPTION OF THE ITEMS SEIZED.

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2. ARTINANO CALLED FOR THE PURPOSE OF GOING ON RECORD THAT:

A) ON THE BASIS OF PERSONALLY OBTAINED CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION AND HIS RECENT VISIT, HE REMAINS CONVINCED OF CARR'S GOOD REPUTATION, I.E., THAT HE "IS CLEAN"; (B) ON THE BASIS OF HIS DISCUSSIONS WITH CUSTOMS AGENTS INVOLVED IN THE SEIZURE AND CARR'S WORD, THERE IS NO BASIS TO DISPUTE THE ASSESSED VALUE OF THE INVENTORY (\$22 MILLION); C) ACCORDING TO CARR, NONE OF THE USG INVESTIGATIONS HAVE PRODUCED ADVERSE FINDINGS AGAINST THE "NEW" PATTERSON (APART FROM THE FAILURE TO APPLY FOR THE MUNITIONS CONTROL LICENSE); AND D) HE WILL SUPPORT CARR IN EL SALVADOR WHEN, REPEAT WHEN, CARR CAN PRODUCE DOCUMENTS WHICH ABSOLVE HIM RELATIVE TO THE CUSTOMS SEIZURE, THE SEC, AND IN GENERAL A "CLEAN BILL OF HEALTH FROM THE USG". HE SAID CARR INTENDS TO CALL AT THE EMBASSY APRIL 1.

3. EMBOFF REVIEWED WITH ARTINANO THE LOCAL SITUATION AND FOUND HIM WELL INFORMED CONCERNING THE LOCAL HOSTILE ENVIRONMENT FOR ANY FURTHER PATTERSON DEALINGS. ARTINANO SAID HE ADVISED CARR NOT TO DO MUCH IN THE WAY OF LOCAL DEFENSIVE ACTIONS UNTIL THE SITUATION IN THE US IS RESOLVED FAVORABLY. INSAFI'S ROEDER, ELEVATED THIS WEEK TO THE PRESIDENCY OF THAT ENTITY, TWICE TOLD THE PRESS INSAFI HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH SEIZED SHIPMENT IN US AND DID NOT RESPOND FAVORABLY TO CAA PROPOSALS. (HOWEVER, WE KNOW THAT CARR HAS IN WRITING INSAFI'S RESOLUTION DECLARING CAA AN "ELIGIBLE PROJECT.") HE SAID CARR IS WORKING "DAY AND NIGHT" TO RESOLVE MATTERS IN THE US. HE DID NOT KNOW YET IF CARR HAD CONTACTED MUNITIONS CONTROL. HE CLAIMED THAT THE INVENTORIES WERE 75-80 PERCENT NEW, PACKED IN GREASE, AND THE ONLY "MILITARY" GOODS HE KNEW OF WERE SOME MISCELLANEOUS PARTS FOR HELICOPTER ROCKET LAUNCHERS. HE SAID THE US PRESS ACCOUNTS WERE EVEN MORE DISTORTED THAN THOSE PUBLISHED IN EL SALVADOR WITH PARTS VALUED AT FROM ONE TO 100 MILLION DOLLARS AND WITH ALLEGATIONS THAT CARR HAD BEEN ARRESTED, ETC.

4. DESPITE OUR ADVICE CONCERNING MEDIA AND GOES CONTACTS IT IS VERY LIKELY THAT CARR'S RETURN WILL PROMPT GOES QUERIES TO THE EMBASSY RELATING TO THE CUSTOMS SEIZURE AND INVESTIGATION. IT WILL BE DIFFICULT TO CONVINCE THE GOVERNMENT THAT A MONTH AFTER THE SEIZURE WE ARE NOT IN A POSITION TO SAY WHETHER THE MATERIAL IS "JUNK" OR IS OF A MILITARY NATURE IN THE SENSE OF 10 FAM ON MUNITIONS CONTROL. FOR THIS REASON WE CONSIDER IT ESSENTIAL THAT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WE HAVE ADDITIONAL GUIDANCE BEYOND THAT CONTAINED IN REFTELS C & D. MOSKOWITZ

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** AEROSPACE INDUSTRY, PRESS COMMENTS, BUSINESS REPUTATION, CUSTOMS SEIZURES, PERSONNEL TRAVEL, POLITICAL SITUATION, PROPOSALS (BID)  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 29 MAR 1974  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
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**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** MorefiRH  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Film Number:** D740069-0554  
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**Office:** ACTION ARA  
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